

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01 SCCT-01

SAB-01 DRC-01 /039 W

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O P 061330Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9386

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7861

E.O. 71652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, EG, PLO

SUBJ: ARAFAT RECEIVES SPECIAL ATTENTION AT EGYPT'S

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

NASSER CITY STADIUM CAIRO WAS SCENE OF
WELL ORGANIZED MILITARY PARADE ON NEWLY DESIGNATED OCTOBER 6
ARMED FORCES DAY WHICH WAS MARKED BY SUBSTANTIAL DISPLAY
OF TROOPS, ARMOR AND ROCKET EQUIPMENT WITH AIRCRAFT FLY-BYS.
PARADE WAS REVIEWED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND WAR MINISTER FIELD
MARSHAL ISMAIL ALL, IN PRESENCE OF LARGE CROWD AND ATTENDED BY
PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI, MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, VISITING DIGNITARIES,
DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MILITARY ATTACHES. (DCM AND USARMA
REPRESENTED EMBASSY.)

PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF OTHERWISE RELATIVELY ROUTINE MILITARY
AFFAIR WAS SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID PLO LEADER YASIR ARAFAT WHO
WAS AMONG VISITING DIGNITARIES. ARAFAT, WHO ARRIVED SOMEWHAT EARLY,
WAS GREETED BY EFFUSIVE EMBRACES BY HEGAZI AND OTHER EGYPTIAN
OFFICIALS ALREADY PRESENT, AFTER RECEIVING HEARTY APPLAUSE FROM
GATHERING CROWD.

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FOLLOWING GREETINGS, ARAFAT SEATED HIMSELF AT FAR RIGHT END OF FRONT ROW IN PRESIDENT'S PAVILION. AFTER CEREMONIAL ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT SADAT ACCOMPANIED BY FIELD MARSHAL ALI, ARAFAT NOT ONLY EXCHANGED EMBRACES WITH BOTH BUT WAS CONSPICUOUSLY SEATED AT SADAT'S RIGHT HAND PRIOR TO PARADE COMMENCEMENT.

AFTER SADAT'S DEPARTURE TO PLAUDITS OF CROWD AT PARADE'S END, CROWD SURGED FORWARD TO EDGE OF PAVILION CHANTING "ARAFAT" WHILE PLO LEADER WAVED AND SHOOK HANDS WITH FRONT LINE BEFORE DEPARTING, HIMSELF VIA REAR OF PAVILION.

COMMENT: SPECIAL ATTENTION ACCORDED ARAFAT BY EGYPTIANS WOULD SEEM TO HIGHLIGHT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SADAT AND DEVELOPING EGYPTIAN POLICY ON PALESTINIAN ROLE IN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT QUESTION.
EILTS

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